

How do I become a Texas Master Naturalist?

It is easy and fun! You begin with an initial training course consisting of eleven sessions of combined classroom and outdoor activities. These classes are taught by fellow naturalists and outside experts and provide training for a lifetime of learning and service to the local community.

In addition to completing all sessions of the Initial Training Course, you will perform at least 40 hours of conservation-related volunteer service and attend 8 hours of advanced training to become a Certified Texas Master Naturalist. Examples of service and training opportunities are listed inside. You must also pass a mandatory criminal background check performed by the state TMN office. There is no cost for the background check and no credit check is done or required.

The Initial Training Course for 2021 will begin on September 11, 2021. Class sessions will be held on consecutive Saturdays through November 20, 2021. Eight class sessions will start out in a classroom environment. Five of those sessions will finish in an outdoor setting with a focus on one or more of the morning classroom topics. Three of the class sessions will be field trips to sites to learn about forest ecology, aquatic systems and wetlands ecology, and prairie ecology. Missed classes must be made up within a specified timeframe.

The training fee for the Initial Training Course is \$100.00 for one person or \$165 for two people in one household sharing a textbook. The fee includes a textbook and all materials for the class.

How do I get started?

Become a member of the 2021 Initial Training Course by submitting a signed application and fee. You must be 18 years of age or older to apply. The deadline for returning applications is August 11, 2021. Class size is limited to 16 participants and applications are accepted on an as-received basis. Once the class size is reached the application window will close, so return your application early to secure your place in the class.

Need an application?

If you received a recruiting package, there is an application inside. If not, you may visit the Red River Chapter website to review the recruiting package information and print an application. Please see the address below. If you need an application mailed to you, please contact us at rtrtmntraining@gmail.com.

Need more information?

Visit our chapter website at the address below to review the new member information, class schedule, and frequently asked questions. If you still have questions or need more information, please contact the 2021 New Class Director at rtrtmntraining@gmail.org.

Visit our Website:

Texas Master Naturalist State Website –
<https://txmn.tamu.edu>

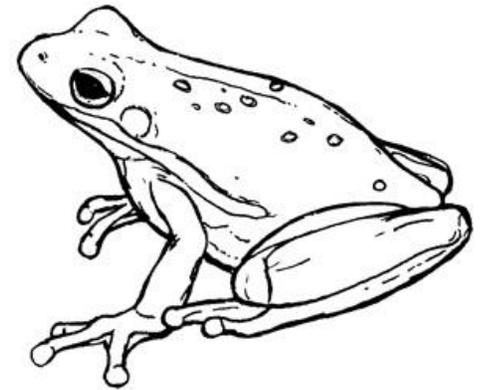
Red River Chapter Website –
<https://txmn.org/redriver/>

Educational programs of Texas AgriLife Extension are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age or national origin.

T E X A S



Red River Chapter



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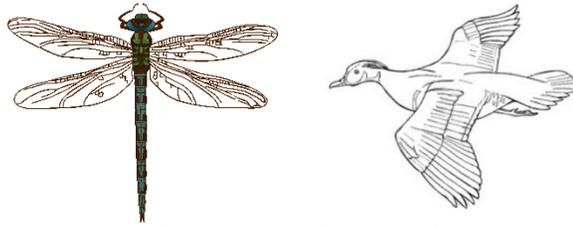


If you have an interest in nature, whether it is birds, wildflowers and native plants, hiking, conservation, nature photography, or just love to be outdoors, you should consider joining Texas Master Naturalists. As a Texas Master Naturalist, you will make new friends, broaden your knowledge of the wildlife, natural resource management and native ecosystems of our area and learn ways of sharing your love of nature with the community. The Red River chapter area includes Lamar, Red River, Bowie, Cass, Delta, Hopkins, Franklin, Camp, Morris, and Titus counties, although membership is not restricted to those counties.

Texas Master Naturalist describes itself as “a corps of well-informed volunteers to provide outreach, and service dedicated to the beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within their communities for the State of Texas”.

Sounds like a governmental description, doesn't it? Well, never mind the dry practical view, for it is so much more than that. Yes, "a corps of well-informed volunteers to..." is at the core of the group, but what we do is so much more exciting than that. For example, here is a partial list of the FUN and rewarding activities that the Red River Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist members have done as service projects:

- Some of us learned simple methods for identifying plants, birds, mammals, trees and learned about other nature related subjects.
- Many of us worked on a chapter-level project with the TPWD. The Great Texas Wildlife Trails Adopt-A-Loop project helps the TPWD Tourism department maintain sites along the trails and provides citizen science input of flora and fauna on the trails.



- Some of us learned to perform water quality monitoring in local lakes, rivers, and streams through the Texas Stream Team training.
- Many of us attended advanced training classes to learn about birdwatching, native plants, butterflies, black bears, wild turkeys, riparian issues, water quality monitoring, nature journaling, and other areas of special interest.
- Some of us taught the classes for advanced training.
- A few of us gave presentations to local groups and shared the wonders of our natural world.
- A few of us did administrative work and public outreach for the Trail de Paris and the Northeast Texas Trail.
- Many of us participated in various “citizen science” birdwatching projects, including the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, Cornell University’s Project FeederWatch, Great Backyard Bird Count, and eBird, the USGS Breeding Bird Survey, and the Lake Pat Mayse Bird Survey.
- Some of us helped to develop and maintain areas at Atlanta State Park and other state parks within our area.



- Some of us participated in an ongoing partnership with Lake Wright Patman to help with designated areas and provide interpretive signage for nature trails.
- A few of us helped maintain a butterfly garden on the Trail de Paris.
- Some of us monitored bluebird nest boxes at Lake Pat Mayse and other areas.
- Some of us built houses for bats, cavity-nesting birds and waterfowl.
- Some of us participated in workdays at native prairies within our area.
- Some of us performed natural resource management, public outreach, and provided training and education to others through chapter projects.
- Many of us attended monthly chapter luncheons and other special functions to have fun and learn.
- Some of us attended the state annual meeting to learn and participate in our organization at the state level.
- Many of us earned award pins for recertification and service milestones.
- Some of us planned our own volunteer service projects. What is your passion?

If this sounds like fun to you, why don't you join us? The training is fun and easy. After completing the initial training course, you will also put in 40 hours of volunteer time and attend at least 8 hours of advanced training each year to become and remain certified. That comes to about an hour a week - doing fun and rewarding activities like those on the list above.

Why not get started now?

For more information, please contact us at rtmtraining@gmail.com or visit our website at <https://txmn.org.redriver>.